

Spokane County Fire Protection District 8
Minutes of Regular Commissioners Meeting
January 17, 2007
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by Board Chair Hesse at 6:01 p.m. Present were: Commissioner Hesse, Commissioner Boling, Commissioner Ferraiuolo, Chief Walkup, Deputy Chief Nielsen, Deputy Chief Rash, Division Chief Ladd, Administrative Assistant Carol Trescott, members of the district, and the public.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Boling asked to table Item B, Unfinished Business, the District Secretary position, indefinitely in order to dedicate board time to other matters. Commissioner Hesse asked to move Item A, New Business, Spokane Valley Fire Department Recruit School Request, to Executive Session as it involved matters of personnel. **Motion: Boling/Ferraiuolo to approve the agenda for the meeting as amended.** The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Ferraiuolo/Boling to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LID Lift Discussions –Chief Walkup referred to an item paper the board received on options for a LID Lift ballot measure and spoke to the levy proration the district has experienced over the past year. Walkup met with representatives from District 3, 4, 8, 10, and 13 to discuss potential strategies of running a joint LID Lift in 2007 and the advantage of presenting levy information to the public as a group. The agencies will meet again January 19th in order to further discussions and identify where individual districts are in their planning process. Passage of a fire levy in 2007 would generate approximately \$450,000 for District 8; passage of an EMS levy would generate approximately \$250,000. Chief Walkup pointed out that one of the driving forces in keeping the District's levy rates where statutorily authorized is our annexation agreement with the City of Spokane. The lower the levy rate, the less the City compensates the District for its tax value. Chief Walkup then reviewed a portion of the 2006-2007 budget presentation with illustrations showing the point at which District expenditures would outstrip revenue. He also presented the board with excerpts from a study by Northwest Securities on levy and bond measure passages

Discussion followed on proposed legislature for a multi-year LID Lift and of a bill directed at school districts to drop the supermajority requirement. Commissioner Ferraiuolo asked if the District's 2007 budget included funding for capital replacements. Walkup responded that the district did not have a capital replacement program at this time but is funding approximately \$75,000 a year toward that goal. He added that the monies the District will receive from the City of Spokane for the next three years have not been allocated.

The District's growth in assessed valuation, two record breaking years of construction and I-747 have driven the levy rate down over the past year \$.24 - \$.26. Chief Walkup said it may be difficult

to present and pass a measure if the gap were to increase and asked the board if or when they were comfortable with running a measure.

Commissioner Hesse responded he felt they were all in agreement on the necessity of running a LID Lift but suggested waiting until the legislative session was over and the outcome of proposed legislation of a multi-year LID Lift had been determined. Walkup said he understood the desire to wait but added that staff would be well into finalizing the 2008 budget by September/October. Chief Walkup said both statistics and discussion with other area fire districts have favored an April election. Filing deadlines have increased to 52 days and 84 days. Hesse asked to table the issue for further discussion. Ferraiuolo asked if Commissioner Hesse was looking toward a fall election. Boling said in previous discussion he has been involved in regarding the multi-year LID Lift measure the consensus was that districts should be prepared to make a filing if the law passed. It was his recommendation that the board authorize staff to prepare for and be ready to present a measure if the bill passed. He felt it would also be cost effective to District taxpayers to be a part of the joint LID Lift. Commissioner Hesse did not feel that the District would be ready to present a measure by April. Chief Walkup said that a portion of the upcoming joint meeting was to work on media sound bites in order to present a consistent message to the public. If a measure were to be run in April, Chief Walkup said the district would have to file by March 2, 2007.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. Countywide Ambulance Contract – Discussions on a countywide ambulance contract are progressing. The City of Spokane has joined those discussions brought forward a number of issues which the group is working through.

B. Negotiations – Negotiations continue to move forward. Discussions with the board during Executive Session will focus on the labor group's proposal regarding wages and hours.

C. Northwest Leadership Seminar – Discussion took place regarding travel arrangements for the Northwest Leadership Seminar March 7 – 9th. The Legislative Workshop is in Olympia March 5th.

D. Commissioner's Award – The District's annual Awards Banquet is Friday, February 16th. Commissioner Boling asked that they add discussion on the selection of the Commissioner's Award to Executive Session.

E. Miscellaneous Revenue – The district received the first of four annexation agreement payments from the City of Spokane in December.

CORRESPONDENCE – 1) A sample copy of Spokane County's new Voter's Pamphlet. 2) A thank you letter from the Make-A-Wish foundation for the involvements District 8 members had in the construction of a horse barn for a child in the community. 3) An e-mail from a community member regarding lettering on a district vehicle.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Hesse announced that Lee Boling was re-elected as president of Spokane County Fire Commissioner's Association.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners broke for Executive Session at 6:40 pm to discuss matters of personnel regarding contract negotiations, and a Spokane Valley Fire Department recruit school request. Chief Rash was asked to participate in the contract negotiations portion of Executive Session.

No formal action was taken in Executive Session. Commissioner Hesse called the meeting back to order at 9:10 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2007, 6:00 pm at Station 82.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Commissioner Hesse adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Gregory A. Hesse, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

William A. Walkup
District Secretary